UNITED NATIONS

Convention to Combat Desertification

Distr.
GENERAL

ICCD/COP(4)/4/Add.2
13 December 2000

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
Fourth session
Bonn, 11-22 December 2000
Item 9 (a) of the provisional agenda[1]

GLOBAL MECHANISM

(a) REVIEW, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 22, PARAGRAPH 2(d) OF THE CONVENTION, OF THE REPORT ON POLICIES, OPERATIONAL MODALITIES AND ACTIVITIES OF THE GLOBAL MECHANISM, AND THE PROVISION OF GUIDANCE TO IT

Addendum

Note by the secretariat

Report on the activities undertaken by the Facilitation Committee of the Global Mechanism, the decisions taken and the results obtained in implementing them

1. At its third session, the Conference of the Parties, by its decision 9/COP.3 on the first review of policies, operational modalities and activities of the Global Mechanism (GM), *inter alia*:

(a) Recommended that the Managing Director of the Global Mechanism report to the Conference of the Parties on the activities undertaken by the Facilitation Committee, the decisions taken and results obtained in implementing them;

(b) Requested the Managing Director to report on the activities of the Global Mechanism, including progress in implementing this decision, to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session.

2. Annexed hereto is the report of the Facilitation Committee of the Global Mechanism for consideration by the Conference of the Parties. The report of the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties is contained in ICCD/COP(4)/4, while the report on the operational strategy of the Global Mechanism is included in ICCD/COP(4)/4/Add.1.

WORLD BANK REPORT

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[1] ICCD/COP(4)/1.

[2] Reproduced as received by the GM, without formal editing by the UNCCD secretariat.

As Current Chair of the Facilitation Committee of the Global Mechanism to the Fourth Conference of the Parties of the Convention to Combat Desertification

Context

The Facilitation Committee of the Global Mechanism held one ordinary meeting (its seventh meeting) following the third Conference of the Parties which was held in Recife, Brazil (November 15 - 26, 1999). The FC meeting was held on May 27, 2000. It was co-chaired by UNEP and the World Bank and was hosted by UNEP at its Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

The meeting was attended by seven of the ten Facilitation Committee (FC) member institutions[1]. The FC participants recognised that the Committee has proven to be a valuable instrument in supporting the Global Mechanism (GM) and in fostering an active involvement of the FC institutions in the implementation of the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). The FC member institutions reiterated their continued commitment to collaborate with the GM so that it can fulfil its mandate.

Programmatic Developments

1. Business Plan

In order to further systematise the co-operation between the GM and the FC member institutions, it was agreed to develop a Business Plan upon which this co-operation could be based. The Business Plan concept is based on three pillars, the goals of the GM, the goals of the FC institutions in relation to the GM and the role of the FC itself. On that basis the objectives for the business plan are being defined along the following lines:

1. The FC member institutions recognise that the GM needs to draw on their individual and collective support in order to foster an efficient implementation of the Convention.

2. The business plan should identify and map current and future donor interventions, particularly interventions of the FC member institutions, and on that basis identify gaps and set priorities as to where particular interventions should be developed as part of a rolling business plan.

3. The Business Plan should not be regarded in the narrow scope of improving countries' access to money, but rather as a strategic instrument that will:

- Enhance the participation of specialised agencies and donor organisations to improve the member countries' abilities to combat desertification through maximising the use of the FC and its member institutions.

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[1] The Meeting was attended by AfDB, GEFSEC, GM, IFAD, UNCCD, UNDP, UNEP, and WB.

- Improve the co-ordination and collaboration among UN agencies and other donor organisations at country-level.

- Facilitate and encourage the use of tested models and methodologies, using standard definitions and tools, which will allow for comparability, and enable countries to monitor their own progress in combating desertification.

- Provide a strategic tool that will allow the GM to be effective in its interventions in all member countries, without over-extending itself.

Initial focus will be given to those countries within which one or more of the FC institutions, with the GM providing catalytic support, are in the position to provide substantial support and which have the highest probability of being financed.

Against these parameters, and as support to countries are unfolding, it will be possible to update the business plan and take decisions as to new interventions of the GM and FC. In this way, the business plan is to be seen as a rolling plan to be updated and reviewed regularly.

The business plan is still under development and will take account of experience to date and discussions at COP 4. However, the intent of the business plan is being pursued in a number of countries in which the GM is now operating.

2. Regional and Sub-regional Workshops on Approaches to Resource Mobilisation

By decision 9/COP.3, para. 11, the GM was requested to organise, in collaboration with the Secretariat, regional and sub-regional workshops on approaches to resource mobilisation. During the year four such workshops have been organised, a fifth one (for Western and Central Africa) is planned for the beginning of the year 2001. The FC members have collaborated actively with the GM in the planning and implementation of these workshops. The participation of the FC members has sent a clear message to parties to the Convention of the FC members' support for the UNCCD and the GM. It has also been highlighted at these occasions that funds for implementation of the Convention are available provided they are approached in accordance with the policy and procedures of the organisations concerned. The workshops have also offered an opportunity for the FC members to highlight the linkages that exists, and can be exploited, between the objectives of the UNCCD and a number of other broad-based initiatives. Examples of such initiatives are the Soil Fertility Initiative pursued by the World Bank and FAO and the Integrated Land and Water Initiative launched by the World Bank, UNDP, UNEP and GEF.

3. Support to Action Programs

The co-operation between the GM and the FC members in support of action programs has become more systematic during the year. As the approach of the GM and the FC members' support is gradually becoming more systematic, this facilitates planning for a consolidated and efficient support to parties. Although the business plan for the GM is not yet finalised, the learning-by-doing process that this year has allowed for will prove to be a valuable asset in finalising the plan. The co-operation with World Bank, FAO and its Investment Centre has been of great value in addressing technical aspects related to UNCCD implementation and a model for the co-operation between the GM and FAO on these issues is gradually taking shape. The co-operation with the GEF Secretariat and the GEF

implementing agencies is likewise pointing to a model for how GEF resources can be mobilised for UNCCD implementation. The agreement reached with the Asian Development Bank related co-operation on support to a number of countries in that region will hopefully lead to a model to be pursued also with the other Regional Development Banks members of the FC. The process currently underway in planning for generating broad based support for national actions programs in countries like Mali, Tunisia, Morocco and China should lead the way for how to mobilise all the FC members in a co-ordinated support at country level. Several members are already co-operating with the GM in these countries such as the UNCCD Secretariat, IFAD, UNDP, UNEP, FAO and the World Bank.

4. Support to Enabling Activities and Strategic Initiatives

The first priority for the GM and the FC members is to support the development and implementation of action programs, primarily at national level. However, enabling activities and strategic initiatives aiming at capacity building, policy development and mobilisation of additional resources for UNCCD implementation are also important aspects of the GM's and the FC's agenda. During the year, the GM has been co-operating with the three Rome based UN agencies, IFAD, FAO and WFP on channelling Italian debt relieved through the so called millennium initiative to projects and programs related to UNCCD. The process is most advanced in Equador but is also developing fast in Egypt. It is hoped that the model being developed with the Government of Italy might be of interest also to other creditor countries. The GM is following developments in close co-operation with the three agencies.

Several FC members have been working with the GM on generating technical and financial support for a regional project in the Latin American region aiming at harmonising policies of relevance to desertification and land degradation. It is hoped that this project will be able to serve as a model for other regions and organisations. The Central Asian region has defined policy harmonisation as one its priorities under its sub-regional action programme, currently under development.

All regions and most sub-regions have defined desertification monitoring and related issues as a high priority under their respective action programs. In response to this and other factors, UNEP-GEF has decided to allocate a PDF-A grant to a Dryland Land Degradation Assessment. The GM will co-finance the project and FAO will act as the Executing Agency. The necessity to have a clear picture of the land degradation status and processes in affected countries has been continuously repeated over the last twenty years and this initiative is a first step in an effort to address the problem in a consolidated and comprehensive manner. The initiative is also important in that the possibility of measuring trends in land management and changes is a basis for eventually being able to evaluate the success of the UNCCD.

5. Policy Development

By decision 9/COP.3, para. 13, the GM was requested by the parties to the Convention to prepare a document on its Operational Strategy. Such a document was prepared and submitted to all FC members for comments before its submission to the Secretariat and the COP.

Based on the very successful *High Level Round Table* organised by the World Bank in May 1999, it has been discussed with the Inter American Development Bank and

with the African Development Bank to organise similar meetings with these organisations. The objective would be to develop a strategy in relation to the UNCCD of these organisations.

6. The GM Database and Information Management System

One of the main tasks of the GM is to establish a database that will facilitate matching financial supply and demand. The Information system will fulfil many other functions and it has therefore been important to design a system that is flexible and can be developed over time. The GM has been working with the World Agricultural Information Center (WAICENT) based at FAO in building the information system and benefited from the hard and soft ware facilities and developments already available with WAICENT. A formal agreement with regard to the development and management of the database/information system is currently under development between FAO/WAICENT and IFAD/GM.

7. Administrative and Financial Matters

The FC has recognised the contribution made by the World Bank in allocating an amount of USD 1.25 million to the GM for the WB fiscal year 2000/2001. An equal amount will be allocated for the subsequent financial year.

The FC also welcomes the commitments of some bilateral donors for supporting the GM and sees this as an important development, essential to render the GM fully operational and able to meet its mandate.

The FC discussed the frequency of its meetings and the size of its membership at its seventh meeting held during the year. It was agreed and confirmed that meetings will be held on a demand driven basis, that they will be organised back-to-back with other meetings at which most of the FC members are expected to be present, it was also agreed that the chairmanship of the meetings will be rotated between the founding members of the FC (UNDP, IFAD and WB), and that meetings can be hosted by other member organisations as was the case with the seventh meeting, and that the membership of the FC should not be further extended at this moment. However, the FC can and should encourage that the chairing organisation invites other organisations to attend the FC meetings to discuss how they might be able to support UNCCD implementation in co-operation with the GM and the FC. The CGIAR system would be an example in this respect as well as representatives of NGOs.

In this context the FC recognises that the interaction between its members and the GM has been developing rapidly during the year even though the number of meetings have been limited to one.

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